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UNCLE SAM AS A PROVIDER.

Whatever faults Uncle Sam may have, there is no denying that he possesses the pre-eminent virtue of being a "good provider" to all citizens who are under his personal charge. Among these are the old soldiers at the Dayton Home. There is a comfortable understanding in the public mind that these veterans are well cared for, but it is something of a surprise to find the cuisine of the establishment and to learn what a quantity of provisions is consumed by the wards of the Nation who have found refuge there. A writer in the American Magazine, who is plainly of housewifely proclivities, has been visiting the institution and gives an account which goes further into details than the occasional newspaper articles on the subject. To persons unaccustomed to providing food for a multitude some of the statements made are quite startling. Four thousand men on an average are fed three times a day from the general kitchen, and from four to five hundred gallons of coffee are required, together with 54 bushels of potatoes and 7 barrels of mackerel, when that commodity is served. Should it happen that they have had 900 pounds of corn beef and 30 bushels of potatoes are chopped up for that purpose. Forty-nine pounds of tea are used every night for supper. Seven hundred gallons of Irish stew are prepared for breakfast once a week. Strawberries they seldom have, for the obvious reason that it requires twenty-five bushels to go around, and the supply is not equal to the demand. Forty sheep are slaughtered when pot-pie is made, and eighteen barrels of flour are baked into bread every twenty-four hours. Twelve hundred pies are required for one dinner, and twelve barrels of apples are used for the filling, three tubs of butter for the upper and three tubs of lard for the lower crust. Ginger-bread is furnished once a week, when an area of 400 feet square is baked. About 2,000 pounds of roast beef is sufficient for one dinner. The enormous quantities of food represented by these figures are somewhat appalling to one accustomed to the family market-basket, but it is gratifying to know that the soldiers are so liberally provided for, and that they are served not only with plenty, but with food well cooked and as toothsome as if prepared in a Yankee kitchen. The United States owes a living to these disabled defenders, and gives it freely.

THE TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

There is something appalling to the non-educational mind in the thought of ten thousand teachers assembled together for any purpose whatever. Individually, it is hardly necessary to say school teachers are very interesting members of society. To associate with them on equal and harmonious terms requires the exercise of some tact, but under proper conditions few more agreeable companions can be found. These conditions demand the avoidance of all topics on which teachers are better informed than all other human beings, and the prevention of cross-examinations as to the exact extent and accuracy of one's knowledge; but with skill all this can be managed and danger of collision between the lay and pedagogic intellect averted. It is collectively that the school teacher is alarming. When two or three are gathered together the non-professional person hesitates to draw near; where there are a thousand or ten thousand the outside world can only stand off and contemplate them with wonder and awe. If they met for pleasure these feelings would still exist in some degree, since it would be felt that the joint pastimes of ten thousand teachers must necessarily be of a nature in which no other than a teacher can fully share. Curiously enough, however, they do not meet for pastime; when they hold a conference, or convention, it is for purely business purposes, and any recreation is gained incidentally, and in a manner, surreptitiously. And it is one of their peculiarities that they are continually holding conventions, little and big, weekly, monthly, yearly, for the purpose of talking about their work. Other workers in the world's vineyard are ready and anxious, at every opportunity, to drop all thought of their daily occupations, and to concern themselves with something as widely different as possible. A few use their leisure in study, but the most, worn out by the strain of daily life, are indifferent to the matter of improving their own or other people's minds, and shamelessly show their preference for going a-fishing or

for reading summer novels. Of all professional or business people, teachers are the only class who flock together each vacation for the purpose of discussing the same problems which have absorbed their attention all the rest of the year. Ten thousand of them will meet in San Francisco next week to "advance the interests of education," and to consider plans for the improvement of the already ornate school system. Out of the trip itself they will secure a portion of that enjoyment which falls to the lot of frivolous tourists bent upon rest and recreation alone; but the awful responsibility resting upon them of providing for the Nation's mental culture will not permit that thorough unbending and abandonment of care which is the end and aim of the rest of the world out on vacation. The public would keenly enjoy the spectacle of ten thousand teachers simultaneously engaged in sportive life, and it is not improbable that the youth of the country would profit as well by this as by the solemn discussion of their intellectual welfare; but the spectacle is one not likely to be visible, so long as educators take their calling so seriously. Taking it as they do, however, the public can only mingle its sympathy with good wishes and extend the hope that the legions now wending their way to the Golden Gate may realize all their pedagogic expectations.

A TEST CASE.

The time for the execution of Brooks alias Maxwell, the St. Louis trunk murderer, is nearly at hand and his friends are making a final tremendous effort to have his sentence commuted to imprisonment for life. The case has assumed a phase in which it is apparently a contest between those who believe in the enforcement of law and those who do not. There seems to be a disposition on the part of Maxwell's so-called friends to make it a test case. It has already become celebrated by the horrible details of the crime, the long trial, the stubborn defense, the numerous delays of the law and the persistent efforts of defendant's attorneys to defeat the ends of justice. In these efforts they have long since passed beyond the limits of professional duty, and for some time past their sole object has seemed to be to beat the law. The present point of attack is the Governor of Missouri, and in addition to popular petitions and the prayers of the murderer's parents it is now reported that the Governor's daughter has been induced to espouse the convict's cause, and to plead with her father for a commutation of the sentence. Thus, after exhausting all the resources of the law and of popular clamor, the cunning attorneys have succeeded in enlisting life-long love against the enforcement of law. The Governor's wife has also been reached through a letter from the convict's mother, who, in touching terms, prays her to "use all your influence with your dear husband in my poor boy's behalf." There is room for the deepest sympathy with the suffering mother, but her prayers for executive clemency would be entitled to more weight if there were not reason to believe they were engineered by Maxwell's attorneys in a last desperate effort to defeat the ends of justice. The father and mother of the condemned man have been brought here from England to intercede for the son. If his crime had been committed in that country, he would have been hanged two years ago. If, after the long struggle for justice that has been made in this case, the Governor of Missouri is finally induced to commute the sentence, English taunts in regard to American law and American justice will be fully justified. Maxwell's execution has been delayed far too long, and it is to be hoped the Governor will be strong enough to withstand the pressure brought to bear upon him, and let the law take its course.

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

The Boston Advertiser says it is curious but decidedly flattering to see how anxious the average Western author is to secure an Eastern, especially a Boston publisher, and thinks this anxiety shows us that while the West may regard our culture as funny, they also regard it as a fact. The Advertiser flatters itself as much to do with the anxiety of a Western writer to have his book published by a Boston house as the existence of Chicago's chain of parks or the location there of big pork-houses had to do with the choice of that city as the place for holding a political convention. The writer views it as a purely business matter, and is in precisely the position of an inventor of a machine who seeks to have his contrivance manufactured and introduced by the largest and most enterprising firm in that line of business. Or, he is like an advertiser, who desires to call attention to his wares in that paper which reaches the largest number of readers. Boston publishing houses have been established for many years; they do excellent work; they have far better facilities for covering the entire literary field, from Maine to California, and for "pushing" books into circulation, than any new firm, wherever located, can possess. Few books jump into popularity, and many editions, through their intrinsic merit alone. There are tricks in this, as all other trades, and well-established publishing houses understand and use them. There is also, from their old and respectable standing, a certain prestige attached to a book issued by these firms; but the culture of the publishers, or the immediate community, is not involved in it. Many authors have a preference for New York publishers, believing the advantages of their establishments to be greater, but no one will say that their choice is influenced in any way by the culture of New York. Boston culture may or may not be a myth, but it is not a matter that greatly concerns Western authors.

MINOR MENTION.

The Fat Men's Association, embracing big feeders from all parts of New England, are getting ready for their annual clam-bake. The committee on supplies has ordered the following: Forty barrels of clams, six axes, ten sheep, four hundred chickens, seven hundred mince-pies, forty hogheads of wine, ten barrels of gin, ten barrels of ale, fifteen barrels of whisky, two hundred boxes of lemons, ten tons of fish, three carloads of green peas, one hundred barrels of sweet potatoes, thirty barrels of white potatoes, four thousand loaves of bread, eight hundred watermelons, five hundred mackeralms, fifty bushels of bananas, eight hundred quarts of ice-cream, three thousand cigars.

TRAVELERS and hunters from the Okeechobee region in Florida report that the Seminoles are now holding their grand annual green-corn dance. It is said to be the largest ever held by them for many years, and representatives from tribes in the southern regions are present. This is a wild and weird performance, outtracking all other Indian festivals. There are still several hundred Seminoles and half-breeds in Florida, though the latter are not permitted to take part in the corn-dance. This is an aristocratic affair in which none but pure-blooded Indians and squaws are allowed to participate.

It is not an uncommon thing for seminary girls to run away from school, but an Arkansas miss, daughter of a wealthy farmer, has reversed the plan. Being tired of a country home and having a thirst for knowledge, she ordered a complete outfit of new clothes which, packed in several large trunks were to be shipped to her address, care of a Northern seminary. The other day, on the opening of the trunk, she discovered the horse-nosed dead, with the dog hanging to his lower jaw. Nothing could relax the girl's grip, and so his head was worthless, even should he live, which is doubtful.

The newspapers of the old world are usually a little off when it comes to describing localities in this country. An Italian paper tells its readers that the city of Manhattan is a small island and a dozen miles. Speaking of the circumference, it says: "Manhattan is an integral part of the island of New York, which is a small island governed by Governor Cleveland and his gracious lady. Really, we do not know how she can bear to hear of this unpunished outrage, committed by a woman who can say: 'I am an American citizen.'"

The popular idea that a razor needs rest occasionally has a scientific foundation in the case of fine razors. The grain of the best Swedish razors is said to be finely selected from the upper end of the outer point toward the handle. Constant stropping will twist the steel until the grain is lost, and the razor will not cut. The grain still further over. When it gets into this condition it cannot be kept sharp, but if laid away and left alone for a while the grain will return to its position, and the razor be as good as new again.

MRS. LEVI P. MORTON, in company with other ladies, has often been seen visiting the tenement houses and other haunts of the poor, carrying out the duties of her benevolent mission. She is a devoted mother, and a devoted daughter to the unfortunate. She is a patroness of the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, the Young Men's Christian Association, and other charitable institutions, and displays an active interest in all charitable works. Mrs. Morton also personally attends to the education of her children, and has a large family of children and family duties to a busy wife for a busy husband.

MISS HARRIET P. DAME is a clerk in the Treasury Department at Washington. She is about seventy years of age, quite a mature woman, and on the whole a very agreeable one. She is a white-skinned, well-proportioned woman, with blue eyes, and a few white hairs, which she has in the center of a picture of her face. She is a very kind and generous person, and has many interesting historical relics, but cares most for her Tippecanoe handkerchief.

MR. CHU PAK, Korean minister at Washington, wears a most remarkable costume when he goes for a walk in these days. His dress is a long, flowing robe, and he wears a long, flowing robe, and he wears a long, flowing robe. He is a very kind and generous person, and has many interesting historical relics, but cares most for her Tippecanoe handkerchief.

THE SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDOWMENT, which has been holding a convention at Chicago, has 1,889 branches in the United States, with a membership of 120,000. Of these Indians are eighty societies, with 5,200 members.

THE SPIRITUALISTS are holding an annual encampment at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee. There are several hundred people and half a dozen professional mediums, but the reports do not mention any spirits.

THIS IS FINE GROWING weather, and nothing is growing faster than Harrison and Morton in public favor. There will be a great crop of Republican votes this year.

YES, Indianapolis is in the hot bed, but it is also in the corn bed, and this hot weather is the making of the corn.

THE VETERANS of the campaign of 1849 are coming to the front by thousands.

BREAKFAST-TABLE CHAT.

ON the last day of this year James G. Blaine will be fifty-eight years of age.

A young housewife always goes far away to bring home. It's the same with a ten-dollar bill. —Yonkers Statesman.

A NEW drink has come in at the Capitol in Washington. It is a compound of brandy and apollinaris, and is called the "quick and the dead." It is a very kind and generous person, and has many interesting historical relics, but cares most for her Tippecanoe handkerchief.

REV. OLIVER S. DEAN, of the Winthrop Church, Holbrook, Mass., has received the degree of D. D. from his alma mater, Lafayette College.

THE Patent Office will not issue a patent upon M. De Bussuet's plan for an air ship. He thought he could exhaust the sea from a steel balloon and cause it to float. His idea was a delusion.

JOHN A. LOGAN, Jr., has made two beautiful gold medals studied with diamonds. One is to be awarded in a drill contest of the Logan Rifles of Youngstown, and the other will go to a member of Logan Camp, Sons of Veterans, of Washington.

AMONG President Cleveland's callers the other day was John Winchell, of Detroit, aged ninety-one, who had come personally to urge the passage of the pension bill. Mr. Winchell had been granted in 1854 for wounds received in 1854 at Lundy's Lane.

A NEW YORK corner's physician remarks that in his experience he has found that more people die in the fourth floor of a building than anywhere else. In the cases of sudden deaths he says that there are more which take place on the fourth floor in one year in New York than in all other parts of the house combined.

IT took twenty-three years to get rid of the surplus powder left over from the war. It was consumed in firing salutes to the flag, and the last barrel was used last spring. No salutes have been fired since then, except at West Point, Fort Monroe and Fort Riley. Congress voted \$30,000 the other day for morning salutes to the flag.

"I MAY honestly say," writes Sir John E. Mills, "that I have consciously placed an idle touch upon canvas. Yet," he continues, "the worst pictures I ever painted in my life are those into which I threw the most trouble and labor." In the cases of sudden deaths he says that there are more which take place on the fourth floor in one year in New York than in all other parts of the house combined.

MRS. MARY GARRETT, who has been traveling abroad with her brother, Mr. Robert Garrett, returned to Baltimore last week. She says that her brother is in excellent health, though reduced in weight by his travels. He intended to spend the summer at Homburg, but on account of the death of his brother, Mr. T. H. Garrett, he will sail for home next Saturday.

When the late Emperor of Germany was in London, last year, he made frequent calls on Sir Morell Mackenzie, and often drove to the Harley street office in a hansom cab. One day a hansom cab was stopped in the park, by a policeman, in pursuit of a thief, and was told to stop. The thief, who was a man of color, was seen entering the premises devoted to the equippage of fashion. The Crown Prince, as he was, gave his name to the

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